

Richard Rush to Andrew Jackson, May 15, 1838, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

1 Jackson had appointed Richard Rush as agent under the act of July 1, 1836, to prosecute the claim of the United States to the legacy of James Smithson. "He proceeded at once to London, entered a friendly suit in the Court of Chancery in the name of the President of the United States, and, notwithstanding there were eight hundred cases ahead of this, he obtained a favorable decision in less than two years, an event without example in the annals of chancery, for the English lawyers themselves admitted that a chancery suit was a thing which might begin with a man's life, and its termination be his epitaph." G. Brown Goode, *The Smithsonian Institution*, 1846–1896, p. 29. The decree was pronounced May 9.

London, May 15, 1838.

Dear Sir, I cannot deny myself the satisfaction of informing you of what I feel sure it will give you pleasure to hear, namely, that I have recovered the Smithsonian bequest for the United States and got the money. The case has not been without its risks. Your kind selection of an agent to superintend it here could not, I hope I may be allowed to say, have fallen upon any one who would have attended to it with more constant diligence and fidelity, and I rejoice to think that the result has been successful. Nothing but a few formal arrangements remain to be completed, when I shall embark (next month) with the money.

Sincerely hoping to hear on my arrival of your health being improved, I beg you Dear Sir to believe in the faithful attachment and respect with which I always am yours